

## OCTOBER 2015 DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER



Dear **TechStars** Families,

Thank you for choosing **TechStars** for your child! As the Owner/Director of **TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County** since 1993, my staff and I are dedicated to providing your child with an outstanding technology experience during each and every weekly class. Our curriculum is written by educators and approved by Computer Explorers corporate headquarters. My staff attends monthly in-service training and is committed to delivering technology lessons that are both fun and educational for our students. We also pride ourselves on our regular email communications with our **TechStars** families. Just as you have been receiving weekly updates about your child's technology class from your child's teacher, you can also expect to receive a monthly newsletter from me. If you have questions or need more information about **TechStars**, do not hesitate to contact me directly by email at any time.

Because our children seem to be bombarded with easy access to digital screens including smartphones, tablets, video games and laptops, many parents worry about the possible adverse effects. An interesting research article, *Could Sharing iPads Boost Achievement?* by Laura Devaney from e-School News, suggests a concept we at **TechStars** have long believed: It is the collaborative learning using the technology that makes all the difference. With the **TechStars** model, age-appropriate, educator-approved software is combined with peer interaction and guided by an informed educator. This mix is a recipe for success. In her article, Laura Devaney concludes that students who share iPads significantly outperform other students because of the collaborative learning around the technology. You can find this brief article at <http://www.eschoolnews.com/2015/04/27/study-sharing-ipads-895/2/>

At **TechStars** we also advocate for "un-plugged" activities that are aimed at building healthy family relationships and making lasting memories. The season of Fall is a great time to pick apples and pumpkins, navigate your way through a corn maze, enjoy a hayride, meet barnyard animals, marvel at the changing colors of the leaves and more. Check out one or more of these local resources with your family soon.

### Farms & Orchards:

- Fifer Orchards and Country Store, Camden-Wyoming, DE <http://www.fiferorchards.com/>
- Linvilla Orchards, Media, PA <http://www.linvilla.com/>
- LoblollyAcres, Viola, DE <http://www.loblollyacres.com/>
- Milburn Orchards, Elkton, MD <http://milburnorchards.com/>
- Mr. Pepper's Pumpkin Patch, Laurel, DE

<http://www.mrpepperspumpkinpatch.com/>

- Ramsey's Farm, Wilmington, DE <http://www.ramseysfarm.com/>

Museums, Parks and More:

- 3 Palms Zoo and Education Center, Clayton, DE <http://www.3palmszoo.org/>
- Brandywine Creek State Park, Wilmington, DE  
<http://www.destateparks.com/park/brandywine-creek/>
- Brandywine Zoo, Wilmington, DE <http://www.brandywinezoo.org/>
- Fort Delaware State Park, Delaware City, DE  
<http://www.destateparks.com/park/fort-delaware>
- Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, DE <http://www.hagley.org/>

Wishing all the best to you and your family for the month of October!

Sincerely,

**Roni Deely**

Owner/Director

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



[www.computerexplorers.com/de](http://www.computerexplorers.com/de)